

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



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"New Tool to Fight Meth Labs Unveiled"

The 2006 legislature has given law enforcement an additional tool to combat methamphetamine labs and the distribution of methamphetamine. House Bill 2567 mandated the requirement for logs, "Precursor Transaction Records," to track the sales of three substances used in the manufacturing and distribution of Methamphetamine, Methyl Sulfonyl Methane (MSM), Liquid Iodine Matrix, and Crystal Elemental Iodine. (See Photos) The WSP was required to develop this form. (See Attached)



Retailers are required to maintain "Precursor Transaction Records," to gather information on the purchases of these three substances. Last year a similar law instituted the use of transaction logs to track the sale of products containing ephedrine. Law enforcement statewide will have access to these records to identify trends and unusual purchases. Washington's law was modeled after similar legislation in Oregon, where records have been demonstrated to be a valuable tool for identifying those involved in the production and distribution of methamphetamine.

Chief John Batiste stated "precursor logs provide an important tool for law enforcement statewide. I anticipate this enhancement will lead to further reductions in methamphetamine labs within our state."

The number of methamphetamine labs discovered in the state has dropped over 77 percent since 2001, a trend which should continue, assisted by the new records requirement. Unfortunately, methamphetamine is readily available, primarily as a result of importation by drug trafficking organizations from Mexico. Requests for publicly funded treatment continue to increase,

outpacing availability. Only 26 percent of those eligible for publicly funded treatment actually are receiving it.

Precursor Transaction Forms are available electronically on the Washington State Patrol website at wsp.wa.gov/reports/forms/190_110.doc.